



State of California  
**Respiratory Care Board**

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**Inquiry:** When a C-section is being done, the NICU therapist will often be asked by the surgeon, to hold the retractor for the bladder. Is this within an RCP's scope of practice?

**Response:** Section 3702, paragraph 1 and its subsequent paragraphs, describe the practice of your inquiry. The act of assisting a physician under his/her direct medical supervision is within the scope of a licensed Respiratory Care Practitioner.

Additionally, the intent of the Practice Act recognizes the existence of overlapping functions between physicians and surgeons, registered nurses, physical therapists, respiratory care practitioners, and other licensed health care personnel to permit additional sharing of functions within organized health care systems (3701, Article 1, General Provisions). As such, the onus is on the organized health care system to determine and institute appropriate guidelines, training and competencies that would provide any shared functions in a manner that would be safe when administered to the public.

Reference #: 2005-C-14